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Message Text

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70
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 SSM-05

PA-02 USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 NSC-05

SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ACDA-10 ERDA-07 OES-06 EB-07

AID-05 /116 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:RONEILL:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
SSM - MR. MCANDREW
NEA/ARP - MR. DICKMAN
AF/P - MR. POPE
NEA - MS. GRIFFIN
---------- 063549
O 092202Z AUG 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
CINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 9, 1976

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 9, 1976:

---AVAILABLE NOW ARE THE EXCHANGE OF TOASTS BY IRANIAN MINISTER OF FINANCE ANSARY AND SECRETARY KISSINGER AT A DINNER IN TEHRAN ON AUGUST 6TH, THE REMARKS BY MINISTER ANSARY AND THE SECRETARY AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE U.S.-IRANIAN JOINT COMMISSION, AUGUST 7, AND THE AGREED MINUTES OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE U.S.-IRAN JOINT COMMISSION, AUGUST 7.

---THIS AFTERNOON WE WILL HAVE THE SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL STAT:MENT AT LAHORE AIRPORT IN PAKISTAN, AUGUST 8TH, UNCLASSIFIED

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EXCHANGE OF TOASTS BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO AND THE SECRETARY AT A DINNER IN LAHORE, AUGUST 8TH; AND THE JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED ON THE OCCASION OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO KABUL.

Q. APART FROMTHE WARNING BY THE HIGH OFFICIAL CONCERNING THE NUCLEAR PLANT IN IRAN, FOR WHICH THERE'S UNFORTUNATELY NO OFFICIAL HANDOUT, CAN YOU SAY WHETHER THERE

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HAD BEEN ANY OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION MADE EITHER TO THE FRENCH OR TO THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT IN THAT RESPECT?

A. WITH REGARD TO PAKISTAN, THE SECRETARY HAS JUST CONCLUDED HIS TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO, AS YOU KNOW, AND I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU ON THE RESULT OF THOSE TALKS OTHER THAN WHAT HAS BEEN RELEASED OR WILL SHORTLY BE RELEASED IN PRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Q. I WAS WONDERING WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY SORT OF REPRESENTATION MADE EITHER TO THE FRENCH OR THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT IN THAT RESPECT -- AND, ALSO, CONCERNING THE COMING SALE OF A FRENCH NUCLEAR REACTOR TO SOUTH AFRICA, WHICH COMES INTO THE SAME CATEGORY.

A. I HAVE ANSWERED THE QUESTION, I BELIEVE, ON PAKISTAN. WITH REGARD TO SOUTH AFRICA, I THINK BOTH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT ARE AWARE OF OUR POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE SALE OF NUCLEAR REACTORS AND THE WHOLE ISSUE OF ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS IN SUCH TRANSACTIONS.

Q. THERE HAVE BEEN NO SPECIFIC CONSULTATIONS THEN WITH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ON EITHER THE PAKISTANI PLANT OR THE SOUTH AFRICAN PLANT.

A. THEY ARE AWARE OF OUR POSITION ON IT -- THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS.

Q. ARE THE SOUTH AFRICANS PLANNING TO BUY A REPROCESSING PLANT?

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF THAT.
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Q. I HEARD OF THAT. I WONDERED.

A. NO, I AM NOT AWARE OF THAT AT ALL.

Q. DO WE HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT THE CHARGE IN PRAVDA THAT THE UNITED STATES IS WORSENING THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, CREATING A DANGEROUS SITUATION OF TENSION, ET CETERA?

A. I DO NOT THINK I WOULD HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY EXCEPT THAT WE WOULD NOT AGREE WITH THAT STATEMENT BY PRAVDA. I THINK IT WAS CARRIED IN TASS.

Q. TELL US ABOUT WHERE WE STAND NOW WITH THE VARIOUS

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FACTIONS ENGAGED IN THE LEBANESE CONFLICT. I'M NOT

TALKING ABOUT LEBANESE PER SE -- BUT FACTIONS, BECAUSE YOUR ANSWER THAT YOU POSTED AUGUST 6TH TO ME ISN'T CLEAR. SO CAN YOU TELL US --

A. I THINK THE THRUST OF THE ANSWER WAS THAT WE ARE NOT GOING TO GO INTO THE SPECIFICS OF WHOM WE ARE IN CONTACT WITH IN LEBANON ON A DAY TO DAY BASIS; AND THAT IS ABOUT IT. WE ARE SIMPLY NOT GOING TO GO INTO THE DETAILS.

Q. WELL, I'M NOT ASKING YOU ABOUT THE SPECIFICS. I'M ASKING YOU ONLY FOR THE NAMES OF THE ORGANIZATIONS WITH WHICH YOU ARE DEALING.

A. WE ARE NOT GOING TO GO INTO IT.

Q. WHY, WHY?

A. THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION WAS CAREFULLY PHRASED, AND WE ARE SIMPLY NOT GOING TO GO INTO THE DETAILS -- THE NAMES OF THE ORGANIZATIONS OR ANYTHING ELSE -- WITH REGARD TO OUR DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS IN LEBANON.

Q. WELL, THIS --

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A. MORE THAN THAT I REALLY DO NOT THINK I CAN SAY.

Q. WELL, WHAT YOU ARE SAYING IS THAT YOU'RE NOT ANSWERING THE QUESTION --

A. THAT IS CORRECT.

Q. -- AND YOU'RE NOT ANSWERING THE QUESTION FOR A REASON.

--ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON SAID IN JUNE THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS IN CONTACT WITH ALL PARTIES IN LEBANON. DO ALL PARTIES INCLUDE THE PLO?

A. NOW, WE ARE --

Q. AND HE WASN'T TALKING ABOUT SECURITY.

A. ALL PARTIES DO NOT INCLUDE THE PLO. OUR CONTACTS WITH THE PLO ARE LIMITED TO MATTERS OF-SECURITY -- AS WE HAVE STATED SEVERAL TIMES.

Q. NOW, WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT CONTACT, DOES THAT INCLUDE

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TELEPHONE CALLS?

A. IN WHAT CONTEXT?

Q. IN THE CONTEXT OF DISCUSSING MATTERS OTHER THAN SHEER SECURITY FOR AMERICANS IN LEBANON.

A. NOW YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT ANY LOW-LEVEL CONTACT WE MAY HAVE WITH THE PLO, IS THAT IT?

Q. WELL, I'M NOT SPECIFYING LOW-LEVEL OR HIGH-LEVEL. I'M SPECIFYING ONLY: ARE WE IN CONTACT WITH THE PLO BY TELE-PHONE, OR WITH ANY BRANCH OF THE PLO BY TELEPHONE, SO THAT IT WON'T BE A DIRECT CONTACT BUT SOMETHING ELSE?

A. NO. PLEASE UNDERSTAND: ANY CONTACT BY TELEPHONE OR IN PERSON WITH THE PLO IS DONE UNIQUELY AND STRICTLY FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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MATTERS CONNECTED WITH SECURITY OF OUR PERSONNEL AND OF OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT.

--NOW, WE CAN BE IN TOUCH BY TELEPHONE OR BY CARRIER PIGEON. IT IS STRICTLY FOR THAT PURPOSE AND FOR THAT PURPOSE ONLY. O.K.?

Q. IS THAT DONE ONLY BY THE SECURITY OFFICER AT THE EMBASSY, OR ARE POLITICAL OFFICERS ALSO ENGAGED IN THIS?

A. NO. THE SECURITY OFFICER IS THE POINT OF CONTACT.

Q. THE ONLY POINT OF CONTACT?

A. THERE ARE ONLY 15 PEOPLE IN THE EMBASSY.

Q. WELL, ARE YOU PREPARED TO SAY THAT HE IS THE ONLY POINT OF CONTACT?

A. I AM PREPARED TO SAY THAT HE IS THE ONLY POINT OF CONTACT.

Q. IS THE UNITED STATES SPECIAL ENVOY TO LEBANON WHO LEFT BEIRUT A FEW DAYS AGO BACK IN WASHINGTON NOW?

A. I THINK HE IS PHYSICALLY PRESENT IN WASHINGTON AT THE MOMENT, YES. HE POSSIBLY MAY BE ON LEAVE, BUT --

Q. IS HE LEAVING, OR IS HE HAV ING ANY CONSULTATIONS IN

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THE DEPARTMENT --
A. CERTAINLY IF HE IS IN THE DEPARTMENT, HE IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN CONSULTING WITH PEOPLE HERE; AND IN TERMS OF PLANS FOR HIS RETURN, I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING ON THAT.

Q. YOU DON'T PLAN TO HAVE ANY BACKGROUND BRIEFING BY HIM TO US HERE?

A. NO. I HAVE NO EXPECTATION OF THAT AT ALL.

Q. ABOUT ERDA AND THE NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS WITH ISRAEL AND EGYPT, WHERE DO WE STAND ON THAT NOW? DO WE GET UNCLASSIFIED

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IN CONTACT -- COMMUNICATE WITH ERDA ON THE SPECIFICS OF THIS -- OR WILL YOU TELL US AS TO WHETHER IT WILL BE READY FOR PRESENTATION TO THE PRESIDENT?

A. YOU CERTAINLY CAN ASK ERDA. THEY ARE THE ONES THAT ARE PUTTING THE PACKAGE TOGETHER.

Q. COULD YOU CONFIRM THAT YOU ARE CONSIDERING MAKING AVAILABLE TO THE LEBANESE A SO-CALLED FLOATING HOSPITAL?

A. I UNDERSTAND THIS IDEA HAS BEEN DISCUSSED, BUT I DO NOT THINK ANY DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ON IT.

Q. HAS BEEN DISCUSSED OR IS BEING DISCUSSED?

A. IT IS UNDER CONSIDERATION, I BELIEVE.

Q. WHAT'S THAT -- HOSPITAL?

A. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A HOSPITAL SHIP. THIS QUESTION HAS BEEN RAISED, AND I UNDERSTAND IT IS BEING CONSIDERED; BUT THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING ON IT AT THIS TIME.

Q. HOSPITAL SHIP TO WHERE?

A. LEBANON.

Q. WHO RAISED IT?

A. IT WAS SENATOR ABOUREZK, IF I AM NOT MISTAKEN.

LET ME CHECK INTO THAT, IF I MAY, PLEASE. BUT IT IS PRESENTLY IN THE REALM OF AN IDEA BEING CONSIDERED.

HABIB

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, TRAVEL REPORTS, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE197313
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RONEILL:DP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760306-0847
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760871/aaaackct.tel
Line Count: 330
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <27 JUL 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 9, 1976 FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR A UG
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, IR, US
To: AMMAN BEIRUT DAMASCUS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006